

North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release, Monday, May 18, 2009
For more information, contact Gordon Weixel, 701-328-5357
Fort Stevenson State Park 701-337-5576
Lake Sakakawea State Park 701-487-3315
Lewis & Clark State Park 701-859-3071

Rising water gives marinas new life

The continued rise of Lake Sakakawea is bringing new life to two North Dakota state park marinas which have been dry for the better part of a decade. The big lake is at about 1831 feet above sea level and is expected to rise well into the summer.

For the first time in eight years the de Trobriand Bay marina at Fort Stevenson State Park is going to be open, with about nine feet of water at the marina. Local Garrison businessman Carey Gieser (Six Mile Enterprises), owner/operator of Six Mile Bait and Tackle, signed a lease with the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department to run the old marina, according to park manager Dick Messerly. The marina is planning to offer a restaurant with full menu, fishing, boating and camping supplies, boat repair services, boat, canoe and kayak rentals, RV storage, and dock slip rentals.

A new marina is being completed at Fort Stevenson State Park on Garrison Bay. This marina was built to provide service during low lake levels and will have depths of over 40 feet of water and 70 slips. Completion of the marina isn't expected until August and operations won't begin until 2010. Plans are to move the docks from the old marina to the new, though the old marina will be kept open for use by Six Mile Enterprises.

At Lewis & Clark State Park the marina is useable for the first time in a decade, according to new park manager Greg Corcoran. The public is showing a lot of interest in the marina and the park service is looking into providing a new gas dock and a minimal number of boat slips to serve the 2009 season. The earliest the new docks will go in would be July, according to Corcoran.

"The low water ramp is in full use and we're taking a lot of calls from people interested in using the marina. There are a good seven to eight feet of water in the marina and it will go up several more feet as the lake is expected to get to the mid- to high-1830s," Corcoran says. "At one time the marina had over 30 boat slips, we're hoping to get just a few in to get by this summer.

At Lake Sakakawea State Park it's business as usual, according to manager John Tunge. Captain Kits Marina, a privately run establishment leased from the park, is busy and the overall prospectus looks good for the summer, according to Tunge. He expects the ramp on Scoria/Rodeo Bay to be useable, the first time in several years.

"The high water alleviated a lot of our issues. It should be an ideal summer for the marinas on Lake Sakakawea," Tunge says. "Everybody is getting their boats ready and up here. I'm expecting a big Memorial Day weekend."